

*Comments in OPPOSITION to the BPL proposal*

*My background is as an Electrical Engineer with a good deal of my experience in the computer industry and also as a currently licensed Amateur Radio operator. I also live in a rural area and understand the appeal of BPL in serving remote areas.*

*Preventing interference is an important area all computer and appliance manufacturers must focus on to sell products in this country under existing FCC regulations. I purchased a digital camera last week that came with a clamp-on choke for the camera's data link to suppress interference from the camera – this sort of remedy is common and essential to prevent or limit interference to AM and short wave radio usage.*

*The Amateur Radio community was recently granted limited use of the 60M band by the FCC with channel limits imposed to prevent our interfering with actively used government allocations in this band. My point is that the HF bands are crowded with many interests that must be protected from interference as we are required to do today in the computer industry.*

*If this country gets into a war with a major power, our satellite systems will be a huge target – our recent success in Iraq must surely underline the importance of taking out satellites to potential adversaries... In such an event, HF communications capabilities would become even more vital than they are today...*

*Given the vital importance of HF communications today and the potentially even more important needs in the event of war, it is not surprising that industry is required today to take strong steps to prevent interference. It seems remarkable that a proposal would be made to broadcast high speed digital information over unshielded power lines where interference is a certainty. By its nature, high speed information has high frequency components that will easily radiate – hence the need for that clamp on choke on my new camera. But imagine using long wires that will act as antennas to couple such information! This will not be a localized interference phenomenon. I hold a certificate for a communication with an Amateur in Maine for a contact using just 100mW – this interference will propagate like any other signal and will cause a huge aggregate increase in noise in addition to the localized severe interference.*

*I would urge the commission to study the detailed report of the ARRL on this topic. The ARRL has conducted tests demonstrating strong interference with current BPL trials at CURRENT legal power levels. These results show the problems with BPL conclusively and clearly show that any increase in BPL power limits would be catastrophic! Please pull back this BPL proposal!*

*Thank you for your consideration,*

*Tom Whiteside – licensed Amateur Operator N5TW*